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Agenda item 163

Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly

Report of the Sixth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Karim Medrek (Morocco)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly pursuant to Assembly decision 56/423 of 12 December 2001.
2. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Sixth Committee.
3. The Sixth Committee considered the item at its 3rd, 25th and 26th meetings, on 27 September and 5 and 6 November 2002. The views of the representatives who spoke during the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.6/57/SR.3, 25 and 26).
4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/55/226).

II. Consideration of proposals

5. At the 25th meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, India, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Uruguay, subsequently joined by Guatemala, Liechtenstein and Mauritius, introduced a draft



resolution entitled "Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly" (A/C.6/57/L.23), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance,

"1. Decides to invite the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution."

6. At the 26th meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Sweden withdrew draft resolution A/C.6/57/L.23 and introduced a draft decision entitled "Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly" (A/C.6/57/L.26).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.6/57/L.26 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Sixth Committee

8. The Sixth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly

The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Sixth Committee, decides to defer further consideration of and a decision on the request for observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly¹ until its fifty-eighth session.

¹ A/55/226.